

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01214 260831Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
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R 260758Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1581
USDOC WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 1214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV EMIN MU

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT PROPOSAL: SMALL STEEL PLANT FOR OMAN

REF: (A) USDOC 15229 (B) MUSCAT 989

1. NOTING THAT AUGUST EDITION OF ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC REPORT STATED THAT CONTRACT FOR SMALL STEEL PLANT IN OMAN AWARDED TO U.S. FIRM NAMED "MIDREX CORPORATION", CHARGE ASKED DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS. LATTER DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT SUPPOSED MIDREX CONTRACT, STATED THAT GERMAN AND BRITISH FIRMS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN BIDDING AND HENCE MEETING WITH OMANGOV OFFICIALS SHORTLY, AND WELCOMED SUGGESTION THAT U.S. FIRMS LIKEWISE MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

2. TWO PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION ACCORDING TO UNDER SECRETARY. FIRST IS ROLLING MILL WITH CAPACITY IN RANGE OF 120,000 TONS PER YEAR. PREFEASIBILITY STUDY DATED MAY 1975 CONDUCTED BY BRITISH FIRM OF WHITEHEAD ASSOCIATES. COPY OF THIS STUDY AVAILABLE FROM: MR. BARAKAT LAMKI, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, P.O. BOX 550, MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN.

3. SECOND PROJECT, NOT AS FAR ALONG IN OMANGOV THINKING, WOULD BE FOR INTEGRATED IRON/STEEL MILL WITH CAPACITY IN 300,000 TONS PER YEAR RANGE. NO FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED. AGAIN, INTERESTED FIRMS INVITED TO CORRESPOND.

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POND DIRECTLY WITH MR. LAMKI.

4. BOTH PROJECTS, IF THEY MATERIALIZE, WILL BE JOINT VENTURE OPERATIONS WITH MAJORITY OMANI HOLDING (PREFERABLY PRIVATE SECTOR, BUT GOVERNMENT WILL PARTICIPATE IF AND AS NECESSARY).

5. REQUEST USDOC BRING INFORMATION IN PARAS 2-4 ABOVE TO ATTENTION OF INTERESTED FIRMS. INCIDENTALLY, ONLY US STEEL SUBSIDIARY HAS CONTACTED EMBASSY TO DATE. USDOC ALSO MIGHT WANT TO NOTE THAT FREDERICK MCELLOWNEY DEPARTED POST IN JUNE 1975; ECON/COMM OFFICER NOW IS MR. LOUIS WARREN, FSO-5.
ZWEIFEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, STEEL, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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